would also have satisfied the Laborites, but they did not believe the Cadets could achieve their goal by persuasion. They thought their force was in the people and that only the people could compel the Tsar to yield power.

The inauguration of the Duma was a great day in St. Petersburg. Streets were packed with crowds that warmly greeted the peasant deputies as they reached the Tauride Palace, especially those dressed like simple muzhiks.

The people's representatives were then taken to the Winter Palace. The Tsar read a speech of two paragraphs, one greeting the Duma and the other warning and threatening it by implication. The peasants were shocked by the display of fabulous luxury, the costumes of ladies of the court, the arrogance of the courtiers, and, most of all, by the Tsar himself—his insignificant appearance, barely audible voice, furtive look. This first meeting of the Duma with the Tsar became the favorite subject for speeches of peasant representatives in factory meetings.

Such meetings were very popular in the first two or three weeks after the Duma's inauguration. The workers would tell the management that a member of the Duma was coming to the factory to talk to them about the Duma. The management could not object and the police could not intervene. The deputy would begin with a greeting and then the workers would ask questions: "Have you been in the Palace? Did you see the Tsar? How does he look?"

The deputy would tell the story: ". . . And then the door opened and men in uniforms rushed in. All covered with gold. Enough on one man to feed three villages for a year. And the Tsar was there. By God, you should have seen him—the poor soul, scared as a rabbit. They had probably told him that we were evil men, so he did not dare come near us and kept behind the guards."

The Duma began its work with a reply to the Tsar's address. The draft, prepared by the Cadets, demanded political amnesty, freedom, agrarian reform, respect for civil rights, and change in the government. But these demands were wrapped up in the argument that they were the means of strengthening the power of the Tsar and protecting the throne against revolutionary storms. This language damaged the prestige of the Duma in the eyes of persons with liberal leanings and failed to bring it into favor with the monarch.

Soon after the Duma had voted its reply to the Tsar's address, the Laborites and S-D called a public meeting in the huge hall of the People's House. The spokesmen of the Labor Group called on the citizens to support the Duma in its struggle against the government. "Citizen Karpov" was announced as the next speaker. A small, pale man with a big bald skull and narrow slanted eyes appeared on the